Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, JA

SUBJ: SPECIAL RECEPTIONIST DESK, AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PROPERTY 61308

REF: STATE 139759

1. POST APPRECIATES THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT APPROVAL OF THE RECEPTIONIST'S DESK FOR FUKUOKA WHICH WILL GREATLY INCREASE SECURITY OF CONSULATE AND HELP PREVENT A REPEAT ATTACK ON THE BUILDING.

2. WE HAVE BEEN MAKING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE WORKLOAD OF THE CONSULATE STAFF IN ANTICIPATION OF MOVING THE PRESENT RECEPTIONIST TO THE NEW RECEPTION DESK AND FIND THAT THE PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF THE NEW DESK FROM THE CONSULAR SECTION, THE NEED FOR THE DESK TO

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BE MANNED AT ALL TIMES AND THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTROLLING ENTRY TO THE BUILDING MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE RECEPTIONIST TO CONTINUE TO PERFORM CLERICAL DUTIES FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION.

3. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE INCREASE IN THE CONSULAR SECTION WORKLOAD HAS FALLEN MAINLY ON THE RECEPTIONIST AS THE SPECIALISTS ARE FULLY UTILIZED. AT THE START OF OUR STUDY, THE RECEPTIONIST WAS DOING MOST OF THE COUNTER WORK FOR THE VISA SECTION, ASSISTING PEOPLE FILL OUT THE FORMS NEEDED FOR MARRIAGES AND TYPING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, AS WELL AS PROCESSING ABOUT ONE HALF OF THE PASSPORT APPLICATIONS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF OUR ONE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SPECIALIST AND DOING ALL THE TYPING FOR THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION. SHE IS ALSO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSULATE TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

4. A STUDY OF THE TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE BUILDING SHOWS THAT ACCESS CONTROL WILL OCCUPY ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE RECEPTIONIST'S TIME, THE REST WILL BE SPENT OPERATING THE CONSULATE SWITCHBOARD,

DIRECTING VISITORS TO THE PROPER OFFICES AND DOING NON PRIORITY TYPING AS TIME ALLOWS. IF ACCESS TO THE BUILDING IS TO BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED, THE DESK MUST BE MANNED AT ALL TIMES AND

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THE RECEPTIONIST CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM DUTIES THAT WILL DISTRACT HER FROM HER PRIMARY DUTY OF SCREENING PEOPLE COMING INTO THE BUILDING. FOR THIS REASON MOST OF THE CONSULAR CLERICAL WORK CANNOT BE DONE AT THE NEW RECEPTION DESK.

5. AS A RESULT OF OUR STUDY, MARRIAGES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERED FROM THE RECEPTIONIST TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL BENEFITS SPECIALIST AND SOME OF THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION TYPING IS NOW ROUTED TO THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION CLERK BUT PASSPORTS AND VISAS STILL REMAIN A PROBLEM.

6. BECAUSE THE NEW DESK WILL NOT BE LOCATED IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, THE RECEPTIONIST WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE COUNTER WORK FOR THE VISA SECTION SHE CURRENTLY PERFORMS. THE CONSULATE'S VISA SECTION CONSISTS OF TWO VISA SPECIALISTS WHO BETWEEN THEM PROCESS OVER 24,000 VISAS A YEAR AND NEITHER OF THEM HAS TIME TO PERFORM THE DUTIES CURRENTLY BEING DONE BY THE RECEPTIONIST. WE ALSO CANNOT FIND AN ALTERNATIVE PERSON TO HANDLE THE PASSPORT APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED BY THE RECEPTIONIST AND THE REMAINDER OF THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION TYPING WHICH INCLUDES TYPING OF THE PASSPORTS.

7. IT IS THE POST CONCLUSION THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO MAN

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THE NEW DESK, GIVEN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF STAFFING, WITHOUT SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CONSULAR SECTION. THE ONLY SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE FOR US TO ENGAGE A CONTRACT GUARD TO HANDLE ACCESS CONTROL TO THE BUILDING, ALLOWING THE CURRENT RECEPTIONIST TO CONTINUE WORKING IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. WE SEE THIS ONLY AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION THAT WILL ALLOW THE SECURITY PLANS TO BE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPLEMENTED WHILE GIVING US TIME TO FURTHER STUDY THE CONSULAR SECTION WORKLOAD AND PREPARE THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER THAT APPEARS WILL BE NEEDED.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR POST TO CONTRACT FOR ONE SECURITY GUARD NINE HOURS A DAY ON A MONTHLY BASIS AT THE RATE OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER MONTH. RICHARDSON

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